

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 FUKUOK 00179 130107Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W
-----097619 140928Z /23

R 130019Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 953
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL NAHA
AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE
AMCONSUL SAPPORO

UNCLAS FUKUOKA 0179

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, AREG, JA
SUBJECT: FORMAT FOR DIRECT RELAY DEATH NOTIFICATION CABLES

REF: (A) STATE 221101, (B) STATE 199909, (C) FUKUOKA 0112
(D) FUKUOKA 0134

1. POST FULLY CONCURS WITH DEPARTMENT'S OBJECTIVE IN
RECENTLY ISSUING NEW MANDATORY GUIDANCE FOR FORMAT IN DIRECT
RELAY DEATH NOTIFICATIONS. COSTS OF DISPOSAL OF REMAINS
AT THIS POST CAN BE ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITIVE TO IMPECUNIOUS
NEXT OF KIN WHO NEED TO BE CLEARLY INFORMED AND ENCOURAGED TO
TAKE LESS COSTLY ALTERNATIVES (UNLESS MONEY IS NO OBJECT).

2. UNFORTUNATELY, DEPARTMENT'S MANDATORY WORDING WHICH
ALL POSTS ARE DIRECTED TO INSERT TO EFFECT THAT QTE MOST
AMERICANS WHO DIE ABROAD ARE BURIED ABROAD UNQTE IS NOT TRUE
FOR THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT; WILL TEND TO CONFUSE NEXT OF KIN
AND OBFUSCATE DEPARTMENT'S REAL OBJECTIVE OF SPARING BEREAVED
RELATIVES UNNECESSARY AND ONEROUS CHARGES FOR DISPOSAL OF
REMAINS.

3. IN FACT NEARLY ALL NON-RESIDENT FOREIGNERS WHO DIE IN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 FUKUOK 00179 130107Z

THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT (AND PERHAPS ELSEWHERE IN JAPAN, TOO)
ARE REPATRIATED TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES. ONE REASON IS THAT
CONVENTIONAL BURIAL IS PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE. ACTUAL COSTS
OF EMBALMING AND BURIAL HERE WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 6000 DOLS.
QUESTION IS SOMEWHAT ACADEMIC, HOWEVER, SINCE THERE IS ONLY
ONE CEMETERY IN ENTIRE DISTRICT FOR INTERMENT OF FOREIGN
REMAINS (LOCATED AT NAGASAKI). IT IS FULL AND CAN ACCOMMODATE

NO MORE BURIALS. THIS MEANS THAT A BODY WOULD HAVE TO BE TRANSPORTED ELSEWHERE IN JAPAN FOR BURIAL WHICH WOULD ADD ON EXTREMELY HIGH HEARSE TRANSPORTATION CHARGES TO ALREADY EXORBITANT COST OF BURIAL.

4. POST'S SITUATION FURTHER COMPLICATED BY COMPLETE LACK OF MORTUARY REFRIGERATION FACILITIES IN ENTIRE DISTRICT. EVEN THOSE CADAVERS IN WHICH POLICE HAVE FORENSIC INTEREST MUST UNDERGO IMMEDIATE POST-MORTEM OF ELSE INCUR HIGH CHARGES OF OVERLAND HEARSE TRANSPORTATION TO NEAREST AVAILABLE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL LABORATORY. REMAINS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS DECEASED IN THE DISTRICT MUST THEREFORE IMMEDIATELY BE TRANSPORTED BY HEARSE TO USAF MORTUARY FACILITY AT YOKOTA AIRBASE, SOME 800 MILES DISTANT VIA CROWDED ROADS. IN RECENT DEATH CASE IN DISTRICT HEARSE CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE ALONE CAME TO 1400 DOLS. FULL COST OF REPATRIATION OF EMBALMED REMAINS FROM THIS DISTRICT WOULD THUS RUN UP TO SOME 3500 DOLS.

5. IT IS CUSTOM IN JAPAN TO CREMATE REMAINS WITHIN ONE OR TWO DAYS OF TIME OF DEATH, HENCE NO NEED FOR MORTUARY REFRIGERATION. BY FAR THEREFORE LEAST COSTLY ALTERNATIVE FOR BEREAVED RELATIVES WOULD BE TO IMMEDIATELY AUTHORIZE CREMATION AND AIR SHIPMENT OF ASHES. IF NO DELAYS OR COMPLICATIONS ARE ENCOUNTERED, THIS PROCEDURE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED FOR THE SUM OF APPROXIMATELY 500 DLS. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT RELATIVES AUTHORIZE DEPARTMENT OR POST IMMEDIATELY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 FUKUOK 00179 130107Z

TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE. OTHERWISE, POST CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT HOSPITALS OR FUNERAL DIRECTORS IN REMOTE AREAS WILL NOT INCUR HEARSE CHARGES FOR UNNECESSARY OVERLAND TRANSPORTATION IN ORDER TO DIVEST THEMSELVES OF PROBLEM OF UNREFRIGERATED REMAINS.

6. POST THEREFORE WISHES TO SUGGEST ALTERNATE WORDING FOR SENTENCE OF MANDATORY GUIDANCE QUOTED ABOVE. WE WOULD PROPOSE SUBSTITUTION AT THIS POST OF FOLLOWING: QTE MOST AMERICANS WHO DIE IN THIS AREA ARE CREMATED AND THEIR ASHES ARE SHIPPED BACK TO THE UNITED STATES UNQTE.

7. DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE AND COMMENTS FROM OTHER JAPAN POST INVITED.

PABST

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978FUKUOK00179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780373-0773
Format: TEL
From: FUKUOKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780973/aaaacieq.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5d3df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 221101, 78 STATE 199909, 78 FUKUOKA 112, 78 FUKUOKA 134
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1457078
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMAT FOR DIRECT RELAY DEATH NOTIFICATION CABLES
TAGS: CDES, AREG, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5d3df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014